

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 22, 2003. Claims 1 and 36 to 39 are in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 12, 14 and 22 were objected to for informalities; and Claims 2, 13 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement. Without conceding the correctness of the objection or rejection, Claims 2, 12 to 14, 22 and 34 have been cancelled, and Claim 1 has been amended to attend to the issues raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 25, 27, 28, 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,181,773 (Lee) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,379,333 (Toth); Claims 12 to 14 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lee in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,160,906 (Daniels); and Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lee and Daniels, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,803,716 (Ammann). In response, without conceding the correctness of the rejections and solely to advance prosecution, Claims 2, 12 to 14, 22, 25, 27, 28 and 33 to 35 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of subject matter, Claim 1 has been amended, and Claims 36 to 39 have been newly-added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested, for the following reasons.

The present invention concerns an apparatus for radiographing an object. This apparatus includes an X-ray radiation unit for radiating X-ray; a grid arranged in an

X-ray radiation path; a grid movement controller for changing a movement speed of the grid by changing a turn speed of a motor; a sensor unit for converting the X-ray into image data; an input unit for inputting information relating to a region of a body; and an imaging controller for controlling (i) the time for the X-ray radiation unit to start radiating the X-ray, (ii) the time for the grid movement controller to start rotating the motor, and (iii) the time for the sensor unit to start storage, by associating one with another. The grid movement controller has a link mechanism for changing a turn movement of the motor into a straight movement of the grid. The imaging controller (a) selects a standard radiation exposure time and the turn speed based on the information input into the input unit, (b) controls the radiation exposure starting time of the X-ray radiation unit based on the selection, and (c) causes the grid movement controller to rotate the motor at the turn speed. The standard radiation exposure time is determined based on the maximum X-ray radiation time to be determined according to the region of the body.

Thus, according to one feature of the invention, the imaging controller selects a standard radiation exposure time and the turn speed based on the information input into the input unit, and controls the radiation exposure starting time of the X-ray radiation unit based on the selection, with the standard radiation time being determined based on the minimum X-ray radiation time to be determined according to the region of the body.

Lee, Toth, Daniels and Ammann, either singly or in combination, are not seen to teach or suggest at least the foregoing feature.

Applicant therefore concludes that the applied documents do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and it is respectfully requested that the Section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Damond Vadnais", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Damond E. Vadnais
Registration No. 52,310

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

DEV/vc

DC_MAIN 156250v1